

Payson Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Sites Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2003
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Payson Police Department Conference Room
303 N. Beeline Highway
Payson

FINAL MINUTES

Members in attendance:

Michelle Dyer
Nel Gusimat
John Shoemaker
Jim Winter

Members absent:

Elaine Drorbaugh
Jim Ehrhardt
Ellen Macnab
Wayne Morgan
Jean Riddell
Bob Ware

ADEQ Staff in attendance:

Tina Wesoloskie, Community Involvement Coordinator
David Haag, Project Manager

Others in attendance:

Dorothy Ehrig
Roger Hattrup
Jane Gusimat
Syndey Whitely
Maxine Whitely
Kelly Crowley
Robin Morris

CIU #03-253

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

1. *Welcome and Introductions*
Tina Wesoloskie, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, opened the meeting. All ADEQ staff, CAB members and audience members introduced themselves. Ms. Wesoloskie stated that ADEQ Superfund staff are always available to make presentations about the two sites to neighborhood associations, homeowner's associations, or any other type of group.
2. *Acceptance and Changes to April 18, July 23, and October 8, 2002 Draft Minutes*
The meeting did not reach quorum and therefore, no minutes were changed or approved. Meeting minutes will be voted on at the next CAB meeting if quorum is reached.
3. *Discussion and Voting on CAB Application*
The meeting did not reach quorum and therefore, no CAB applications were voted on. The CAB application will be voted on at the next CAB meeting if quorum is reached.
4. *Review and Discussion of CAB Charter*
Due to a majority of the members not being present, this item will be discussed at the next CAB meeting.
5. *Presentation and Update on Activities Related to the Payson PCE and Tonto and Cherry WQARF Sites-* David Haag, ADEQ Project Manager

Payson PCE WQARF Site Update

Mr. Haag provided a general update of the activities that have taken place since the last meeting. Mr.

Haag also provided some background about the Payson PCE site because several audience members were new attendees. There were two treatment plants built for the Payson PCE site. The site is bounded by Beeline Highway, McLane, Aero and Main Street within the Green Valley area. The site was contaminated by tetrachloroethene (PCE). The contamination was discovered in 1991, and the treatment systems were on-line in 1998. The first system installed is called the Interim Groundwater Treatment System (IGTS). This system was designed to remediate high concentrations in the groundwater near the source area. The Expanded Groundwater Treatment System (EGTS) was the second system installed. This system is currently pumping 200 gallons per minute.

In 2001/2002, ADEQ was operating both the IGTS and a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. The IGTS was used to lower the water table to expose the contaminated soil in the vadose zone. The SVE system was then used to remove the solvents from the vadose zone. In November 2002, the SVE system and the IGTS were showing very low contaminant concentrations. The SVE system was turned off several times to ensure there were no "rebound" effects. Soil samples taken at the site indicated levels below the current residential soil remediation standards. ADEQ was able to shut down and decommission both the SVE system and the IGTS. The soil vapor monitoring points, extraction wells EW-1, EW-2, and EW-3, monitoring well Rundle-2 and the Rundle domestic well have been abandoned. Mr. Haag described how a well is properly abandoned. Grouting material is pressure-injected into the well to ensure the well cannot act as a conduit. These wells are no longer usable.

Production well TOP-4 has been turned back on. TOP-4 was reconditioned and now pumped to the EGTS. Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in TOP-4 was approximately 10 to 12 parts per billion (ppb).

One audience member asked if there have been any studies about MTBE and the affect on groundwater. Mr. Haag explained that the standard used at the site is 35 ppb. This is Arizona's Health Based Guidance Level (HBGL). This standard is not enforceable. Mr. Haag recently learned that the HBGL has been increased to 94 ppb. Mr. Haag described MTBE and how the chemical was used in gasoline. Discussion ensued regarding the use of MTBE in California. MTBE has been detected in TOP-4 and TOP-5R. Both of these production wells are piped to the EGTS. Mr. Haag briefly described what wells are pumped to the EGTS. Mr. Haag also described how the EGTS treats the groundwater with granular activated carbon and the sampling procedures at each sampling point. Once the water is sent through the carbon tanks, chlorine is added and the water is stored in a contact tank. The water remains in the contact tank for half an hour prior to distribution. The MTBE and PCE are removed from the groundwater. Mr. Haag explained that recently a trace amount of MTBE (0.7 ppb) was detected after the treatment. These results still need to be double checked. Discussion ensued regarding other states and zero tolerance standards for MTBE. Mr. Haag also explained laboratory sampling procedures and error rates in reporting concentrations.

The Payson PCE Feasibility Study report was rewritten to include the presence of MTBE treated by the EGTS. This additional analysis included information about the increase of carbon change out due to the presence of MTBE coming into the EGTS. At 50 ppb entering the EGTS, carbon change out would take place every 80 days. This is compared to the current carbon change out rate of every two years. Each change out costs approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000. If there continues to be a sustained MTBE problem, other system adjustments may be necessary. This may include rerouting the water through the IGTS first to decrease the MTBE prior to piping to the EGTS. These options will be documented in the feasibility study report. Mr. Haag explained that the MTBE originated from leaking underground storage tanks in the area. Discussion ensued regarding underground storage tank standards including changing tanks to double-walled tanks. Mr. Haag described how ADEQ's Underground Storage Tank Section and Superfund Section are different cleanup programs. Mr. Haag explained that several contaminants are sampled for including the MTBE, PCE and other volatile

organic compounds. When a new well is drilled for drinking water production, many chemicals and biological parameters are sampled. This is how the Payson PCE site was discovered. Mr. Haag also discussed the inclusion of the New McKamey well in the feasibility study report.

Tonto and Cherry WQARF Site Update

The draft Remedial Investigation report was released with the public comment period ending in December 2002. Mr. Haag briefly reviewed the Tonto and Cherry site history. There is a small plume of VOC contamination moving toward the northwest. The current maximum concentration is about six to seven ppb. ADEQ supplies bottled water to the trailer park and any other domestic well affected by this site. ADEQ conducted a vapor survey to determine the source of the contamination. It appeared that the contamination originated from an old septic tank. Semi-annual groundwater sampling will take place in the first week in March. ADEQ will begin writing the draft Remedial Objective Report in March 2003. The report will be released to the public and provide for a 30-day public comment period. The remedial objectives may be very similar to the objectives set for the Payson PCE site.

Ms. Wesoloskie explained that both sites are called orphan sites because there is no responsible party paying for the clean up. Mr. Haag spoke briefly about the state budget crisis and how it is affecting WQARF. Because of Payson's dependency on the treated water, Payson continues to be a priority for WQARF spending.

6. *Call to the Public*

One audience member asked about the longevity of the Payson WQARF sites CAB. Ms. Wesoloskie responded that the CAB program was designed to cease once the record of decision was documented for the site. Since the CAB includes both Payson PCE and Tonto and Cherry, the CAB would probably be maintained through the record of decision for Tonto and Cherry.

7. *Future Meeting Plans*

The next meeting was scheduled for May 13, 2003 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Location to be determined.